**Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee**

Mid-County Services Center 2424 Reedie Drive Wheaton MD 20902

Meeting Minutes Tuesday November 12, 2013

APPROVED

**Members Present:** Henriot St. Gerard(Chair), Devala Janardan(Vice Chair),Tom Stanton, Nadia Sesay, William Moore, Mirza Donegan, Marian Fryer, Jeannette Feldner, Dan Thompson, Luis Bonilla

**Members Absent:** Rick Kessler

**Staff Present:** Ana Lopez van Balen, Director, Mid-County Services Center

**Guests:** Clare Lise Kelly, Research and Designation Coordinator, Historic Preservation Office of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission accompanied by a staff architect. Laura Leigh Palmer from the W/K Chamber of Commerce. Tanya Sayyed, student UMD, accompanied by an unidentified UMD student. Ed Latner, County Attorney

**Call to Order:** 6:03pm by Chair Henriot St. Gerard followed by introductions of members and guests. The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and approved without changes. Henriot then turned the floor over to Clare Lise Kelly from M-NCPPC

**Park and Planning Presentation:** Clare Lise Kelly gave a background on historic preservation efforts in the county, accompanied by a slide presentation. She presented a detailed history of the youth center and why it qualifies for historic designation. She also noted how redevelopment can still be achieved in spite of this designation. Questions from WUDAC members followed, including:

1. At what point is it too expensive to preserve

2. Have you taken into consideration the needs of the community

3. What is the cost of redevelopment with and without historic preservation

A hearing will be held at 6:00pm at the Park & Planning Commission 8787 Ga. Ave Silver Spring MD

**Chair Report:** Henriot St. Gerard remarked on the new meeting agenda format and hoped it moves meetings along faster. He again noted the Youth Center hearing set for Nov. 14. There is a County Executive press conference on the Night Time Economy Task Force Recommendations set for 10:30am on Nov. 14. He said he would email budget to WUDAC members for review by next meeting.

**Ethics Presentation:** Ana Lopez van Balen introduced Ed Latner, a County Attorney to speak to WUDAC about the county’s ethics law. His presentation included a handout and he took questions from members.

**Directors Report:** Ana touched on Redevelopment and would get info to WUDAC on a meeting on the subject to occur in December.

**Other Business:** Henriot introduced a draft of a letter on Veterans Park and the connectivity of the Urban District to Brookside Gardens. Dan Thompson explained the formulation of the letter. Henriot commented that he felt the letter needed more detail on Veterans Park and how it fits into Urban Park guidelines. A motion to approve the letter with a paragraph to mention including Veterans Park in County Urban Guidelines passed.

The Economic subcommittee submitted a draft of a letter to the Planning Board on the Recreation Center redevelopment. Nadia Sesay gave a background on the letter formation. A discussion followed in light of Park & Planning’s earlier presentation to our group. It was noted that the letter must be addressed to the County Council instead of the Planning Board. The letter was approved with amendments that the Council make our views known to Park & Planning and that the designation not delay the building of the Recreation Center.

**Adjourn:** 7:39pm